CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An asset management system comprising one or more stations for receiving a tangible asset and a server system coupled to a communication medium, wherein the server system stores information regarding tangible asset transactions between the stations and the tangible assets in the asset management system and allows the asset management system to be accessed remotely via the communication medium.

2. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the server system permits the asset management system to be accessed based on one or more criteria.

3. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the server system permits the tangible assets to be removed from the stations or replaced to the stations based on the one or more criteria.

4. The system as set forth in claim 2 further comprising a remote system that provides the one or more criteria to the server system.

5. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the one or more criteria comprises a user ID, a user password, and a user security access level.

6. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the server system provides a remote system with the stored information regarding the transactions with the stations.

7. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the server system stores information describing the asset management system, the information comprising at least one of an identity, a location and an installation date of the asset management system.

8. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the stored transaction information comprises at least one of a location of one or more of the stations where one or more of the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, an identity of the stations where the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, a date or time the tangible assets were removed, an identifier for each of the removed the tangible assets, and an identity of one or more users that removed the tangible assets.

9. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the server system stores alarm information describing one or more alarm conditions to be satisfied to trigger an alarm of the asset management system.

10. The system as set forth in claim 9 wherein the server system sounds the alarm of at least one of the asset management system and a remote system upon determining that the one or more alarm conditions have been satisfied.

11. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the server system provides a remote system with one or more graphical user interfaces for accepting data used by the server system to perform at least one of permitting the asset management system to be accessed, permitting the tangible assets to be removed from the stations, permitting the tangible assets to be replaced to the stations, setting alarm conditions, and storing information that describes the asset management system.

12. The system as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a user input interface that receives user identification information associated with a request to access the asset management system.

13. The system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the user input interface further comprises an access control card reader, the requestor identification information being stored on an access card that is coupled to the access control card reader.

14.   The system as set forth in claim 13 wherein the server system converts the requestor identification information from a first format to a second format.

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15.   A method for managing assets comprising:

        providing an asset management system with one or more stations for receiving a tangible asset and a server system coupled to a communication medium;

10   storing information regarding tangible asset transactions between the stations and the tangible assets; and

        allowing the asset management system to be accessed remotely via the communication medium.

15   16.   The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising permitting the asset management system to be accessed based on one or more criteria.

17.   The method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the permitting the asset management system to be accessed further comprises permitting the tangible assets

20   to be removed from the stations or replaced to the stations based on the one or more criteria.

18.   The method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising providing the one or more criteria to the server system using a remote system.

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19.   The method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the one or more criteria comprises a user ID, a user password, and a user security access level.

20.   The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising providing a

30   remote system with the stored information regarding the transactions with the stations using the server system.

21.   The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising storing information describing the asset management system, the information comprising at least one of an identity, a location and an installation date of the asset management system.

22.   The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the stored transaction information comprises at least one of a location of one or more of the stations where one or more of the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, an identity of the stations where the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, a date or time the tangible assets were removed, an identifier for each of the removed the tangible assets, and an identity of one or more users that removed the tangible assets.

23.   The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising storing alarm information describing one or more alarm conditions to be satisfied to trigger an alarm of the asset management system.

24.   The method as set forth in claim 23 further comprising sounding the alarm of at least one of the asset management system and a remote system upon determining that the one or more alarm conditions have been satisfied.

25.   The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising using the server system to provide a remote system with one or more graphical user interfaces for accepting data used by the server system to perform at least one of permitting the asset management system to be accessed, permitting the tangible assets to be removed from the stations, permitting the tangible assets to be replaced to the stations, setting alarm conditions, and storing information that describes the asset management system.

26.   The method as set forth in claim 15 further comprising receiving user identification information associated with a request to access the asset management system through a user input interface.

27.	The method as set forth in claim 26 wherein the user input interface further comprises an access control card reader, the requestor identification information being stored on an access card that is coupled to the access control card reader.

28.	The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein the server system converts the requestor identification information from a first format to a second format.

29.	A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions for managing assets, which when executed by at least one processor, causes the processor to perform:

	providing an asset management system with one or more stations for receiving a tangible asset and a server system coupled to a communication medium;

	storing information regarding tangible asset transactions between the stations and the tangible assets; and

	allowing the asset management system to be accessed remotely via the communication medium.

30.	The medium as set forth in claim 29 further comprising permitting the asset management system to be accessed based on one or more criteria.

31.	The medium as set forth in claim 30 wherein the permitting the asset management system to be accessed further comprises permitting the tangible assets to be removed from the stations or replaced to the stations based on the one or more criteria.

32.	The medium as set forth in claim 30 further comprising providing the one or more criteria to the server system using a remote system.

33.   The medium as set forth in claim 30 wherein the one or more criteria comprises a user ID, a user password, and a user security access level.

34.   The medium as set forth in claim 29 further comprising providing a remote system with the stored information regarding the transactions with the stations using the server system.

35.   The medium as set forth in claim 29 further comprising storing information describing the asset management system, the information comprising at least one of an identity, a location and an installation date of the asset management system.

36.   The medium as set forth in claim 29 wherein the stored transaction information comprises at least one of a location of one or more of the stations where one or more of the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, an identity of the stations where the tangible assets were removed from or replaced to, a date or time the tangible assets were removed, an identifier for each of the removed the tangible assets, and an identity of one or more users that removed the tangible assets.

37.   The medium as set forth in claim 29 further comprising storing alarm information describing one or more alarm conditions to be satisfied to trigger an alarm of the asset management system.

38.   The medium as set forth in claim 37 further comprising sounding the alarm of at least one of the asset management system and a remote system upon determining that the one or more alarm conditions have been satisfied.

39.   The medium as set forth in claim 29 further comprising using the server system to provide a remote system with one or more graphical user interfaces for accepting data used by the server system to perform at least one of permitting the asset management system to be accessed, permitting the tangible

assets to be removed from the stations, permitting the tangible assets to be replaced to the stations, setting alarm conditions, and storing information that describes the asset management system.

40. The medium as set forth in claim 29 further comprising receiving user identification information associated with a request to access the asset management system through a user input interface.

41. The medium as set forth in claim 40 wherein the user input interface further comprises an access control card reader, the requestor identification information being stored on an access card that is coupled to the access control card reader.

42. The medium as set forth in claim 41 wherein the server system converts the requestor identification information from a first format to a second format.